

program. I urge my colleagues to pay attention to the introduction of this bill. It will be significant.

THE SPIRIT OF COMPETITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHILLING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in the spirit of competition, in support of American workers and as an advocate for a government that seeks to provide economic certainty for the businesses that create jobs in this country.

Last night, the House voted on bipartisan trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. These agreements represent an opportunity to compete, grow jobs, and promote American exports.

Here is what we know: Ninety-five percent of the world's customers live outside this great country. Here is another thing: If America gives itself the opportunity to compete with other countries, like these three agreements will, American manufacturers and farmers will deliver, and we will all win. Job creation is red, white, and blue. It's definitely a red, white, and blue issue, and that is why you saw both Democrats and Republicans coming together yesterday to provide this opportunity for American exports to compete.

In the 17th District of Illinois, which I represent, I recently visited a company that makes the big mining trucks, and 80 percent of those trucks ship outside of the United States of America. This company employs 3,000 workers, which is equal to supplying jobs to 2,400 of those. These jobs are dependent upon exports. The same company also manufactures bulldozers. Eight out of 10 of those are sold to buyers from overseas. Yet again, this is an example of jobs being created because of the demand for American products by customers in a global economy.

These trade agreements will reduce tariffs on goods and will remove barriers that are currently in place. By leveling the playing field for our manufacturers and farmers, we can further promote these cornerstones of the American economy. We need to enact these policies that strengthen our manufacturing base, which is why I am cosponsoring legislation offered by my colleague and friend DAN LIPINSKI that will pave the way for our national manufacturing strategy.

Three million manufacturing jobs and almost 4 million ag jobs are dependent upon U.S. exports. The independent U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that these agreements will increase American-made exports by \$13 billion and inject \$10 billion into our GDP. President Obama estimates that these jobs could create a quarter of a million jobs. According to the Congressional Research Service, the last time the United States signed a trade agreement was back in 2006 with Peru.

These three trade agreements the House passed last night could have been sent to Congress back in 2009. Every day we delay is a day we deny American workers job opportunities to compete. These trade agreements aren't about rhetoric. They are about results. We cannot afford to sit on the sidelines anymore while other countries enter into trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea, causing us to lose more of the market share. Again, I support these free trade agreements. If as a country we are allowed to compete, I know we will deliver.

RECOGNIZING MARCIA JO ZERIVITZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I rise today to honor the achievements of Marcia Jo Zerivitz, the founding executive director and chief curator of the Jewish Museum of Florida.

Marcia has been a leader in the organized Florida Jewish community for more than 40 years. Originally from West Virginia, she has been a leader in Jewish organizations since her work with Hillel during her college years. Since the 1970s, Marcia has held various leadership roles within organizations such as Israel Bonds, AIPAC, ORT, and Hadassah.

Throughout her lifetime, Marcia has broken the glass ceiling as the first woman in many positions, including as president of the Greater Orlando Jewish Federation. She is one of the first women nationally to hold this office. She was also the first woman to chair the Florida Association of Jewish Federations Conference in 1979. In 1993, Marcia guided the restoration of an abandoned 1936 art deco building on Miami Beach, which served as an Orthodox synagogue for 50 years, and she opened the Jewish Museum of Florida in 1995.

She led the effort to get the museum accredited and has presented more than 50 exhibits in 15 years. The museum, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, has collected, preserved, and interpreted the Jewish experience in Florida since at least 1763, when Jews were first allowed to live in the State.

In 2003, she initiated State legislation for a Florida Jewish History Month, which is now recognized each January. Then in 2005, Marcia and members of Miami's Jewish community approached me with the idea to designate a month to honor the contributions that American Jews have made to our Nation. As a result, I was the proud sponsor of the Jewish American Heritage Month resolution, which the House and Senate unanimously passed in 2006 and which has been proclaimed by President Bush and President Obama annually since then.

Marcia Zerivitz should take great pride in knowing that Jewish American Heritage Month, which is now celebrated across our Nation each May, began with her work at the Jewish Museum of Florida.

I am honored to recognize Marcia Jo Zerivitz for the positive impact that she has made, not just on Florida's Jewish community but on communities across our Nation. I wish her well on her retirement, and I thank her for enriching the lives of countless others in the Jewish community and around the country.

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YUCCA MOUNTAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor a second time, as I promised a couple of weeks ago, to talk about high-level nuclear waste in the Yucca Mountain repository.

Two weeks ago I highlighted Hanford, Washington, a DOE site that has 53 million gallons of nuclear waste—53 million gallons of nuclear waste that's stored 10 feet underground in tanks that are leaking. The waste is 250 feet above the water table and the waste is 1 mile from the Columbia River, versus Federal law which said in 1982 that Yucca Mountain should be our national repository.

Now let's look at Yucca Mountain. Right now there's no nuclear waste on site. The waste would be stored a thousand feet underground. The waste is a thousand feet above the water table, and the waste would be 100 miles from the Colorado River; 100 miles versus 1 mile, high-level nuclear waste, especially with Hanford where you have nuclear waste that actually is leaking outside the tanks.

So then my response was: What are the Senators in these two States doing and what's their position? The reason why we're not moving to Yucca Mountain is because of one U.S. Senator, the majority leader of the Senate, HARRY REID, who has blocked the movement of Yucca Mountain.

Obviously, these Senators have an interest because of the Columbia River, and I was trying to encourage them, through the use of the bully pulpit, that this was a time to move to get this resolution resolved, especially after Fukushima Daiichi, everybody following the tragedy in Japan, and part of that was high-level nuclear waste in storage ponds right on site.

Since then, I have been able to get a few quotes from these Senators, or researched them. Senator CANTWELL said: "The National Academy of Sciences has concluded that the best approach is to bury nuclear waste deep underground. Since that conclusion, Yucca Mountain in Nevada has been chosen as the national repository."

Senator MURRAY said this: "I believe that it is irresponsible for the Department of Energy to discontinue the

Yucca program altogether, its funding, licensing and design.”

Senator WYDEN has said: “I don’t see that (Yucca Mountain will reopen). I think that there’ll be an effort to look at new technologies and on-site storage and a whole host of approaches, but I don’t think that’s going to happen.”

So Senator WYDEN is accepting this in Hanford, a mile from the Columbia River.

Senator MERKLEY has been quiet, as far as we could find from the Google search pairing his name and any Yucca Mountain comments.

Now, lest people think I’m picking on the Northwest, let me go to my home State of Illinois. So one facility, Zion Nuclear Power Station, it’s a decommissioned plant but there’s still 65 casks containing 1,135 metric tons of nuclear waste, versus Yucca Mountain, which has zero.

The waste at Zion is stored above the ground; the waste at Yucca Mountain would be a thousand feet below the surface. The waste at Zion is 5 feet above the water table; the waste at Yucca Mountain would be a thousand feet. The waste at Yucca Mountain is 100 miles from the Colorado River; the waste from Zion is 1,300 feet from Lake Michigan.

I mean, it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to understand that Yucca Mountain is safer than storing high-level nuclear waste next to Lake Michigan.

So what have our Senators said?

Well, let’s start with Senator DURBIN. He’s quoted as saying: “There are a lot of options out there. But I have supported Yucca in the past, and I am not walking away from that. I just think we need to consider other options as well.”

I want him to obviously continue to consider Yucca Mountain.

Senator KIRK has said: “I think in the end Congress needs to fight and win the battle to build the Yucca Mountain facility so that we can store nuclear waste 1,000 feet below the surface.”

I agree.

Senator KOHL is quoted as saying: “This site, on the Nevada nuclear test site”—that’s what people don’t know is that Yucca Mountain is also the Nevada nuclear test site. That’s where we tested the nuclear bombs during the nuclear arms race and the nuclear age. So Senator KOHL is correct in saying: “This site, on the Nevada nuclear test site, is certainly safer than leaving the waste at 132 sites nationwide, sites scattered around the country that were never designed to be a permanent solution.”

Senator JOHNSON is silent.

CURRENCY MANIPULATORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the bipartisan majority in the Senate for passing legislation to take on currency

manipulators, and to urge our House of Representatives and our House Republican leadership to do the same—to allow a stand-alone, up-or-down vote on currency manipulation legislation—here in the House of Representatives. In a period of congressional gridlock, we must seize every bipartisan opportunity available to us not only to create jobs, but also to protect the good-paying jobs we already have.

As the Senate demonstrated this week by passing the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act, the time is now to take advantage of bipartisan cooperation. Sixteen Republican Senators joined 47 Democratic Senators in voting for this legislation to counter an unfair trade practice that is hampering our economic recovery.

In February, Congressman SANDER LEVIN, TIM RYAN, and TIM MURPHY introduced the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act. H.R. 639 has garnered 225 bipartisan cosponsors, more than enough secure House passage. This would allow the Department of Commerce to counter imports made cheaper by currency manipulation with a corresponding tariff. A nearly identical bill passed the House of Representatives last year by a strong, overwhelming bipartisan vote of 348-79, both Republicans and Democrats.

When countries are allowed to keep the value of their currencies artificially low and, in turn, the prices of their exports into the United States, American companies and American workers face an unfair disadvantage. Forced to compete on an unlevel playing field where competitors are able to maintain a permanent 30 to 40 percent-off sale on their products, American jobs are lost and our trade deficit grows with countries like China.

The Economic Policy Institute recently released the study, and it showed that in the last 10 years the U.S. lost 2.8 million jobs, including nearly 62,000 jobs in my home State of Indiana as a result directly of the expanding trade deficit with China. Many experts agree: Countries like China that manipulate their currencies are damaging the U.S. economy.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke recently expressed concern “that the Chinese currency policy is blocking what might be a more normal recovery process in the global economy,” and he stated that “it is to some extent hurting the recovery.”

Chairman Bernanke is tasked directly with the responsibilities of serving and protecting America’s economic interests. He recognizes the impact that Chinese currency manipulation is having on our economy. It is long past time for this House of Representatives to do the same.

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After the Senate expressed interest in considering S. 1619, China immediately went on the offensive, issuing threats and saying such legislation could spark a trade war. Though Chi-

na’s comments are disappointing, they are not unexpected, and Congress should not shy away from doing what is in America’s best interests. That is our job. China’s unfair currency policies have cost millions of Americans their jobs, and I believe inaction on this issue is dangerous to our economic recovery and continues to put at risk hundreds of thousands of additional American jobs.

When I travel around my district, I hear from small businesses and manufacturers on this issue. And they never ask for Congress to guarantee their success. All they want is a fair fight, for the rules to be the same. And I believe given a level playing field, American businesses will win every single time.

Once again, to our House leadership, please allow bipartisan legislation addressing currency manipulation to come before the full House of Representatives for a standalone, up-or-down vote. Who are you going to stand with, the Chinese government or American businesses and American workers? The American people want a vote now and deserve a vote now.

REPUBLICAN ANTI-CHOICE LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, we are now more than 275 days into this 112th Congress, and the GOP leadership has put forward zero American jobs bills and outright rejected consideration of President Obama’s jobs proposal. So if jobs aren’t at the heart of the Republican Tea Party’s agenda, what is?

Passage of anti-labor legislation to weaken the rights of middle class workers and encourage the shipping of jobs overseas. Check.

Passage of anti-middle class legislation to raise taxes on hardworking families. Check.

Passage of anti-environment legislation to roll back clean air standards. Check.

Passage of anti-education legislation to slash Pell Grants for middle-income students to afford college. Check.

And later today, passage of its seventh anti-women’s health measure. Today’s bill will put the government in the middle of American’s health choices and allow hospitals to refuse life-saving treatment to women.

Every day it feels more and more like the movie “Groundhog Day.” I wake up hoping it will be something different, but it’s the same scene played over and over and over. The Republican Tea Party agenda stuck on repeat might satisfy the extreme right wing, but it neither satisfies nor helps hardworking Americans.

It is time for the GOP leadership to learn a lesson from “Groundhog Day”—the only way out of it is to do better.

The American people don’t want token legislation, extreme partisanship, or sideshow politics. They want